

Eliot Town Manager Report

November 3, 2022

Submitted by

Michael J. Sullivan to the Eliot Selectboard

Honorable Select Board, this is an abridged accounting of some of the projects and issues I and the dedicated municipal staff have been working on lately for the benefit of the Town of Eliot and its citizens.

Eliot Police Department Maine Accreditation



At the October 27 Select Board meeting we were honored to host a presentation from Chief Edward Toland (retired) representing the Maine Chiefs of Police Association as Executive Director and Chief Shawn O'Leary (retired) of Dirigo Safety (third party standards evaluator) who conferred the Eliot Police Department with certification giving the department Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation status.

Chief Elliot Moya spoke about the team effort from all the department members. This process reviews all aspects of law enforcement and provides a medium for the department to assess itself as it unfolds. This is a significant achievement which everyone in the Eliot Police Department shares in the success and is deserving of the accolades which accompany such an attainment.

Beyond the credibility and confidence this hard-earned exercise gives a police department better perspective an understanding of their role as law enforcement professionals, therefore reduces risk and liability. This added protection against civil litigation and/or insurance claims will pay significant returns in the future, both in avoidance and premium. Again, congratulations to all members of the EPD team!

Climate Resiliency Discussion. Recently, Eliot Planner Jeff Brubaker convened a group of interested parties at Green Acres (thank you Frank Robinson et al.) for a workshop on climate resiliency supported by SMPDC. It was both informative and helpful in understanding the challenge and brought to light some strategies which may be considered.

Housing, transit, more energy efficient public buildings, sustainable building practices and a host of other issues were brought to the table. There were about twenty-five people in attendance, including Select Board Chair Richard Donhauser and State Representative Michelle Meyer.

This is a project is a great compliment to the Comp Plan Update which is slated to begin Wednesday November 9th at 7 PM (see town website for more details).

Town Hall goes to YCCC. Finally, we will be able to attend the trainings for Customer Service and De-escalation at York County Community College. The last attempt was thwarted by a CV19 outbreak in Town Hall. It seems we have that in the rear-view mirror.

This type of training and skill building is vital for us to serve the community. We thank Cait Grant for her help on this project and to Kristen Weingarten for securing grant funding through the Alford Workforce Development Fund.

Municipal Fund Investments. Finance Director Kristin McNulty and I are happy to report we will be transferring the last of our funds held by our previous bank to a municipal investment entity. Bartholomew & Company, they are a fully insured fiduciary which is focused primarily on municipal investments.

They in all cases make sure town investments are from the legal list of investments set by the State of Maine, the investments are not overly aggressive and protected to the greatest extent possible. Bartholomew is also assisting in updating out investment policy.

The record of return for other communities far outpaces any returns Eliot has historically had recently, with more attention to this important component of the community's fiscal health we will turn a cost center into a profit center, as it has actually lost money over the last several years. Even during a robust period of investment nationally.

This comes on the heels of changes we have made by migrating the other funds over to Kennebunk Bank from our former bank partner, saving us over ten thousand dollars annually.

Bonding. We also have met with USAFI our bond advisor to discuss some borrowing strategies. It is a tool which there has been some apprehension to use it seems for Eliot's benefit. I do hope we can overcome that trepidation with sound arguments as to why it makes sense.

All I am asking is for citizens and leaders to keep an open mind and I promise I will use the "tool" if allowed judiciously to meet the needs of the Town of Eliot. There has been a number of worthwhile projects which may benefit if approached properly in a cost saving method.

There also are some opportunities to look outside the normal course of action by going to the open bond market with a credit rating, which would also lower costs. More to come!

Veterans' Day. Eliot American Legion Post #188 invites the public to a Veteran's Day Ceremony to be held at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery commencing at 11 AM. Please arrive a few minutes before to join

Post #188 in honoring our fallen veterans on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour as is tradition.

Post 188 also invites the community to a remembrance for Veteran Phil Lytle's who will be honored at 2 PM at Brooks Cemetery also November 11th, this will be followed by an "Open House" beginning at 3 PM at the American Legion 455 Main Street.

Software Upgrades. Just as an FYI there are a number of software upgrades, we are working on and considering from Clear.Gov to a more fluid "time clock" system. I will be covering those in future reports as they become clearer. Every one is intended to bring efficiencies and transparency to government in Eliot.

Anniversary. Just a note I recently celebrated my 1st year as Eliot's Town Manager. I want to thank the incredible citizens who have cheered me on in this last year, I greatly appreciate the support and leadership exhibited by the Select Board and it goes without saying for giving me the opportunity to work with a truly remarkable and talented group of colleagues. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan

Town of Eliot, Manager